

stripes signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons. My blue field is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly.

My stars are clustered together, unifying 50 states as one, for God and country.

Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy.

Worship eternal God and keep His commandments,

And I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all mankind.

—Author Unknown.

I would like to thank Paul Serketich for bringing these tributes to my attention. Each day as the flag is raised in front of our government buildings, schools, and businesses, and as we put our right hands over our hearts and pledge our allegiance, we will be reminded not only of those who fought and died for all that our flag represents, but of the freedom that they bought with their lives.

DEATH TAX ELIMINATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I have a rather personal interest in this legislation, and I have heard a lot from the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means about what we owe our children, so I have come to the well this morning and apologize to my children, I have 5, and 10 grandchildren.

I am probably one of the few Members of the House who started out poor. I used to say I was so poor as a kid I never slept alone until I was married. But through good luck and the action of commerce, I was able to amass what most of the people in my district would call a fortune. And I have not paid much tax on that. I pay income tax each year. I pay more income tax than you pay me salary, but most of what I have was accumulated through capital gains, and I have not sold it. I do not intend to.

My kids will get it pretty much free. So I apologize because I am going to vote against this. Kids, to Jeff and Bea and Thekla and Sarah, Fortney and the 10 grandchildren, you are going to have to pay some tax. This is a little family business, it might be 7 figures, but you are going to get a down payment on that from your mother and me of \$1,350,000 free. You have not worked a day in your life for that.

You have a college education, down payment on your homes, cars, but you have not worked worth squat. First you are going to get a million to a million and a half bucks. Then you are going to get half of the business free. You may have to pay 50 to 55 percent tax on the balance. Next you are going to get 10 years to pay off that balance at a below prime interest rate. And, kids, if you are so dumb that you cannot run that business with over a 50 percent down payment given to you and 10 years to pay off the balance at a low rate, you do not deserve it.

You ought to have been trained in this country to earn your own way and pay your

taxes every day so that Dad can have a prescription drug benefit and a decent nursing home so you do not have to worry about taking care of me in my dotage.

There are not very many Members of Congress that are going to pay any inheritance tax. This is a gift to the rich not for independent, smart kids as I have raised.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 266 to recognize the great benefits of music education. Americans are known around the world for our unique contributions to modern music. But we are far behind many other industrialized Nations in recognizing the educational benefits of teaching music to our children. In Japan, it is mandated by the Ministry of Education that every child, grades one through nine, receive two hours a week of music instruction. In Germany students must take two, 45-minute classes of music education a week.

Unfortunately, in America, the trend over the last several years has been to cut back on music education programs. This is occurring despite mounting evidence that music education can actually alter brain development in children and improve their reasoning skills. A study from the University of California at Irvine found that elementary school students in Los Angeles who took piano lessons boosted their math performance. From the body of data available, researchers have concluded that there are genuine long-term changes in the wiring of the brain that enhance children's abilities to understand how patterns work in time and space.

The educational benefits are clear and according to a recent Gallup poll, nine in ten Americans believe that music education should be a part of every student's day.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of working with the GRAMMY Foundation, the non-profit arm of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. The GRAMMY Foundation is dedicated to advancing music education in schools. We recently held an event here on Capitol Hill to announce that the New American schools, a non-profit corporation established by President Bush to identify new ways of teaching, has welcomed the GRAMMY Foundation's Leonard Bernstein centers for artful learning into their portfolio of cutting-edge educational models.

The GRAMMY Foundation brings music to thousands of children through their "GRAMMY in The Schools" program which exposes high schools students to careers in the music industry.

And the Foundation created Smart Symphonies, a classical music CD based on brain research to benefit the development of infants. I applaud the efforts of the GRAMMY Foundation to make music and art education available for all children.

Mr. Speaker, I support this Resolution in the hope that children of all ages across this nation will have access to quality music education programs. If we foster the creative impulses of our children, the possibilities of their success in life will be boundless.

TRIBUTE TO GEN. ANTHONY C. ZINNI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Gen. Anthony C. Zinni, who will retire from the U.S. Marine Corps on August 11, 2000, after more than 35 years of devoted service to the nation.

General Zinni was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from Villanova University in 1965. After completion of The Basic School, he was assigned to the 2d Marine Division. In 1967, General Zinni served in Vietnam as an Infantry Battalion Advisor to the Vietnamese Marine Corps. Following his tour in Vietnam, he was ordered to The Basic School as a Tactics Instructor and Platoon Commander. In 1970, he returned to Vietnam where he was wounded and subsequently assigned to the 3d Force Service Regiment on Okinawa. One year later, General Zinni was again assigned to the 2d Marine Division as a Company Commander. In 1974, he was assigned to the Manpower Department at Headquarters, Marine Corps.

Following the Vietnam war, General Zinni served in succession of influential staff and command positions, including: Commanding Officer of the 2d Battalion, 8th Marines; Operations and Tactics Instructor at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College; Head of the Special Operations and Terrorism Counteraction Section; Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group fellow; Regimental Commander of the 9th Marines; Commanding Officer of the 35th Marine Expeditionary Unit; and Chief of Staff of the Marine Air-Ground Training and Education Center.

Upon promotion to flag rank in 1991, General Zinni was named the Deputy Director of Operations at the United States European Command. In 1991, he served as the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commanding General during the Kurdish relief effort in Turkey and Iraq and also acted as the Military Coordinator for the relief effort for the former Soviet Union. From 1992 to 1993, he served as the Director for Operations for the Unified Task Force Somalia and as the Assistant to the Special Envoy to Somalia. His next assignment was as the Deputy Commanding General, United States Marine Corps Combat Development Command. After that, he assumed command of the I Marine Expeditionary Force, during which he served as Commander of the Combined Task Force responsible for protecting the withdrawal of United Nations forces from Somalia.

In September 1996, General Zinni was assigned to the United States Central Command and subsequently assumed command in 1997. In addition to continuing no-fly and maritime interdiction operations over Iraq, General Zinni